



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Found Guilty of Aggravated Assault While Armed -Defendant Sliced Ex-Girlfriend's Arm with Machete-

WASHINGTON - Jose Mauricio Vasquez-Guzman, 26, of Washington, D.C., has been convicted of charges stemming from an attack last year in which he used a machete against his ex-girlfriend, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Vasquez-Guzman was convicted by a jury on July 7, 2011, of charges of aggravated assault while armed, assault with a dangerous weapon and simple assault. The verdict followed a trial in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Vasquez-Guzman is to be sentenced September 9, 2011 by the Honorable Anthony C. Epstein. He faces up to 30 years in prison on the charge of aggravated assault while armed, up to 10 years on the charge of assault with a dangerous weapon, and up to 180 days for the simple assault conviction.

According to the government's evidence, on September 3, 2010, at about 1:30 a.m., Vasquez-Guzman argued with his former girlfriend about his visitation with their toddler daughter. During this argument, he struck the victim in the chest, grabbed the child, and fled into his basement apartment in the 4500 block of Georgia Avenue NW. The victim followed the defendant and attempted to gain entry into the apartment to get back her daughter.

Vasquez-Guzman eventually opened the door and brandished an 18-inch machete. He struck the victim with the broad side of the blade twice on the shoulder. He then struck her a third time with the sharp edge of the blade, slicing through her left forearm and fracturing the bone in two places. The victim lost consciousness and later underwent surgery at a hospital for her wounds.

In announcing the conviction, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Officers Eric Garcia-Burgos and Bernie Lyons of the Metropolitan Police Department, who were involved in the investigation and prosecution of this case. He also expressed appreciation to Paralegal Lamine Hendrix and Legal Assistant Charmonique Price, Domestic Violence Advocate Christina

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Principe, of the Victim Witness Assistance Unit, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mona Sahaf and Elizabeth Gabriel, who indicted and prosecuted the case.

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